

Appleby Archaeology

Notes of the Committee meeting of the Appleby Archaeology Group held on Wednesday September 12th 2018 at the Crown and Cushion, Appleby.

Present

Martin Joyce	Chair	Martin Railton	Research
Phyl Rouston		Trish Shaw	
Adrian Waite		Mick Yates	
Barbara Blenkinship		Chris Wilson	Treasurer & Membership

Apologies

Richard Stevens

Notes of the last meeting

The notes were agreed as a correct record.

1/09/18 Matters arising

7/05/18 Adrian Waite was to appoint a speaker, James Hodgson, for the AGM but as yet has heard nothing so is to follow it up. It will be something new and different. Plan B will be a talk about the inventory of the properties of Appleby by Chris Wilson. Plan C will be a talk on the Moot Hall and its new look. If the Moot Hall talk goes ahead sometime it was MOOTED that it should be done in the said Moot Hall!

2/09/18 Membership

Membership was seen to be at a healthy level but we could do with some new members of a younger age range.

3/09/19 Treasurers Report

Chris Wilson reported that he is having difficulty with Banking as our bank no longer has a branch in Appleby. He cannot bank online and will check out the constitution to move the account – possibly to the Cumberland Building Society – and put this in motion at the AGM or before if possible.

Chris has also paid the Council for British Archaeology fee for membership which was £50. It was also discussed that the last speaker cost £30 and had we paid Richard Stevens £10 honorary fee? Martin Joyce checked and it had not been paid out!

All cheques have gone through the account and we are in a healthy position. The grant of £400 has come in; cost of the new projector of £600 has gone out but we are still in a good position. We have not as yet had the June statement though.

Discussion ensued as to whether we should be using Appleby Business Centre for sundries and stationary as the prices there are somewhat steep. Several of us went with the ‘Support Local Businesses’ though and agreed that all our needs can be covered in one place, invoices etc. produced and things ordered in if necessary. The general agreement then was to stay with the Appleby Business Centre.

4/09/18 Research and Appleby HAZ developments

Martin revealed that the HAZ report was submitted two months ago and is in progress. There will, he said, be stiff competition as this is the last phase of this type of funding from HLF. He is still

hopeful for funding of this three year project. He has produced an in depth detailed programme for each years work. This broadly covers the Medieval and periods forward of this. A strong emphasis has been put on community and educational involvement of all ages.

The project has had to be trimmed down to accommodate the £50,000 limit but it is still a substantial research project that includes volunteers, school and college pupils as well as qualified archaeologists and specialists.

Geophysical surveys will be undertaken as part of this project and it has been discussed whether to purchase our own equipment that would then benefit the society in future projects. It is felt though that, at this time, costs are too prohibitive unless we could get matched funding from another source. A source of such funding would be the Norden Trust run by Peter Norton. This may be under further consideration with a request of funding for the cost of equipment as part of matched funding.

5/09/18 Correspondence

- a) A letter of support has been forthcoming from Duncan Curley to Appleby Community Enterprise Limited, with a view to allowing a room above the library in Appleby to be used for Appleby Archaeology Group and other projects. The Appleby-in-Westmorland Society and others have sent letters of support for this venture, Appleby Archaeology being one of them. If AA society could have a corner of this room we could man it at certain times as it would provide great support for the Dig Appleby project in relation to post excavation work, community interaction, meetings etc. Appleby Community Enterprise Limited existed for a while and with Adrian Banford they are developing the use of the space with a view to eventually pulling in other societies to share the space. Martin Railton's understanding of it is that the people who are applying for the funding are not ourselves and therefore ACE present no conflict of interests just provide support.
- b) Martin Joyce was asked to attend a workshop of the Appleby Conservation Area group who are potentially trying to extend the areas. This is with a view to extending the limitations on buildings and with a view to more landscaping and planting. Adrian Waite and myself said we would reply to the emails with a view to attending.
- c) There was also and invite to attend EDC re the proposed alteration and expansion of the town of Penrith, denoting what the sources of information are. This may be followed up in the near future.
- d) Ron Lyon advises that the Warcop Camp Archaeology officer spoke to the Commandant and was told that they may form links with Appleby Archaeology. We could then offer to participate in surveys and recording to add to the knowledge of this little known area. He commented though that we are welcome to go and look at the range. Our interests, if this becomes possible, would be for the group to visit the Medieval Burton Village and the associated fish ponds. A survey was carried out ten years ago by Major Mick Lynch, with archaeologist Alex Southern. We are going to ask for a date in May when there is no firing to go and investigate the area.
- e) Correspondence received from Eric Matthews regarding a grant (*by the Castle Studies Group for work*) at Appleby Castle of £7,500 with a view to App Arch receiving it. Discussion from Adrian Banford yielded no results. Martin Railton then wrote to Sally Nightingale direct to do a drone survey and other investigations but to no effect! Phyl commented that the only person of influence to her on this or similar matters would be Sir Martin Holdgate. We are to send copies of our correspondence to Sally Nightingale on to Martin Holdgate to see if he can indeed get the ball rolling.

6/09/18 Audio Visual arrangements in the Supper Room

A grant from Eden District Council for AV equipment in the Supper Room was received. Martin J wanted to sit on the money for a while but was outvoted and the equipment was purchased. The Supper Room have had equipment installed but it is for groups to pay for. Our next lecture in October will then use our new equipment!

7/09/18 Any other business

Richard Stevens is to stand down as Secretary from the date of the AGM in January. The other roles to fill will be Correspondence and Publicity that can be separate or joint. Publicity involves the production of posters etc. by electronic means. Correspondence is to the Heart of Eden newsletter and other societies with personal letters as required.

On a poignant note Marjorie Campion is no longer a member of the group. This impacts deeply on us all as she produced the best mince pies at Christmas time. We are going to compare prices etc. for the festive season alternative!

It has been noted by members that the Heart of Eden Magazine are no longer reporting our talks and dates etc. Should this be followed up? And if so by whom?

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Crown and Cushion on the 16th November 2018 at 7.30. We will discuss the programme for 2019 and the AGM as well as any other business.